(c) by when Government would complete the said project and start using it actually?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Harassment of Tourists

1213. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of foreign tourists and N.R.Is at times, are harassed at International Airports in the country; and

(b) whether Government have any plan to bring about an attitudinal change amongst these officials and promote tourism in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Airports Authority of India and Ministry of Civil Avaition have received some complaints in this regard.

(b) Regular customer orientation training programmes are conducted for the officials and others at the airport to bring about attitudinal change. Moreover, disciplinary authorities are asked to take strick deterrant action against the government servant involved. Action is also initiated against touts.

Action against Officials in Hijack cases

1214. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines flights had been hijacked the maximum number of times in comparison, with the international hijackings during the last two decades;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact despite this dubious track record, Indian Airlines has never taken any action against its officials who issue boarding passes to the passengers including the hijackers; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) During the last two decades, there have been 14 cases of hijackings of Indian Airlines aircraft. Comparable Airlines-wise figures of other Airlines are not available.

(c) and (d) None of the staff of Indian Airlines (IA) has been held responsible for any lapse relating to hijack of IA aircraft so far.

Construction of Airport at Ajmer

1215. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the then Civil Aviation Minister in 1997-98 announced to build a domestic Airport in Ajmer (Rajasthan); if so, the action taken so far, in this regard; and

(b) whether Government intends to build an Airport in Ajmer to provide facilities to the pilgrims and tourists in view of the international importance of Dargah Khwaja Saheb Ajmer and Pushkar?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Ajmer has excellent rail and road connections. It is only 136 Kms. away from Jaipur. Under the existing policy, no green field airport is to be developed within an aerial distance of 150 kms of an existing airport.

Provision of Anti-Hijacking Squad in Hijacked IA Plane

1216. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the hijacked aircraft of Indian Airlines taken to Kabul was provided with anti-hijacking squad; and

(b) whether the ATC at Amritsar Airport failed to properly instruct the pilot of the hijacked aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Upon receiving information of a contingency, the ATC is required to notify Watch Supervisor/Aerodrome Officer and has to comply with the following:—